



[4910-13-P]

**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

**Federal Aviation Administration**

**14 CFR Part 39**

**[Docket No. FAA-2019-1115; Product Identifier 2018-SW-065-AD]**

**RIN 2120-AA64**

**Airworthiness Directives; Sikorsky Aircraft Corporation Helicopters**

**AGENCY:** Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), DOT.

**ACTION:** Notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM).

**SUMMARY:** The FAA proposes to adopt a new airworthiness directive (AD) for certain Sikorsky Aircraft Corporation (Sikorsky) Model S-92A helicopters. This proposed AD was prompted by two incidents of erroneous low oil pressure caution cockpit indications and unintended actuation of the main gearbox (MGB) auto bypass valve. This proposed AD would require installing auxiliary circuit breaker modification (MOD) kits and inserting a Rotorcraft Flight Manual (RFM) Supplement into the RFM for your helicopter. The FAA is proposing this AD to address the unsafe condition on these products.

**DATES:** The FAA must receive comments on this proposed AD by [INSERT DATE 45 DAYS AFTER DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER].

**ADDRESSES:** You may send comments, using the procedures found in 14 CFR 11.43 and 11.45, by any of the following methods:

- Federal eRulemaking Portal: Go to <https://www.regulations.gov>. Follow the instructions for submitting comments.

- Fax: 202-493-2251.

- Mail: U.S. Department of Transportation, Docket Operations, M-30, West Building Ground Floor, Room W12-140, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE., Washington, DC 20590.

- Hand Delivery: Deliver to Mail address above between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

For service information identified in this NPRM, contact your local Sikorsky Field Representative or Sikorsky's Service Engineering Group at Sikorsky Aircraft Corporation, 124 Quarry Road, Trumbull, CT 06611; telephone 1-800-Winged-S; email [wcs\\_cust\\_service\\_eng.gr-sik@lmco.com](mailto:wcs_cust_service_eng.gr-sik@lmco.com). Operators may also log on to the Sikorsky 360 website at <https://www.sikorsky360.com>. You may view this service information at the FAA, Office of the Regional Counsel, Southwest Region, 10101 Hillwood Pkwy, Room 6N-321, Fort Worth, TX 76177. For information on the availability of this material at the FAA, call 817-222-5110.

### **Examining the AD Docket**

You may examine the AD docket on the Internet at <https://www.regulations.gov> by searching for and locating Docket No. FAA-2019-1115; or in person at Docket Operations between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays. The AD docket contains this NPRM, the regulatory evaluation, any comments received, and other information. The street address for Docket Operations is listed above.

Comments will be available in the AD docket shortly after receipt.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Michael Schwetz, Aviation Safety Engineer, Boston ACO Branch, Compliance & Airworthiness Division, FAA, 1200

District Avenue, Burlington, MA 01803; telephone 781-238-7761; email michael.schwetz@faa.gov.

## **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

### **Comments Invited**

The FAA invites you to send any written relevant data, views, or arguments about this proposal. Send your comments to an address listed under the ADDRESSES section. Include “Docket No. FAA-2019-1115; Product Identifier 2018-SW-065-AD” at the beginning of your comments. The FAA specifically invites comments on the overall regulatory, economic, environmental, and energy aspects of this NPRM. The FAA will consider all comments received by the closing date and may amend this NPRM because of those comments.

The FAA will post all comments received, without change, to <https://www.regulations.gov>, including any personal information you provide. The FAA will also post a report summarizing each substantive verbal contact received about this NPRM.

### **Discussion**

The FAA proposes to adopt a new AD for Sikorsky Model S-92A helicopters. This proposed AD is prompted by two incidents of erroneous low oil pressure caution cockpit indications and unintended actuation of the MGB auto bypass valve caused by unintended popping of the M XMSN OIL WARN circuit breaker during flight. The root cause of this circuit breaker popping is unknown. When this circuit breaker trips, the following cautions will display “MGB PUMP 1 FAIL, MGB PUMP 2 FAIL, MGB OIL HOT, MGB MAN COOL, MGB OIL PRES.” With the MGB auto bypass valve actuated,

the MGB BYPASS caution will not annunciate. For the given conditions, the appropriate action for the crew is “land as soon as possible” in accordance with the RFM Emergency Procedures. The erroneous indications conflicting with correct gauge readings may overwhelm the flight crew, resulting in a forced landing of the helicopter.

To address this unsafe condition, Sikorsky developed MOD kits based on helicopter serial number (S/N) to introduce a separate circuit breaker for the MGB last jet pressure switch. These MOD kits specify reworking the overhead panel to install new clips and brackets, circuit breaker wiring harnesses, wiring MODs, the auxiliary circuit breaker panel, and the M XMSN PRESS SWITCH circuit breaker.

#### **Related Service Information under 1 CFR part 51**

The FAA reviewed Sikorsky Special Service Instructions No. 92-121, dated October 26, 2017 (SSI 92-121). This service information describes procedures for installing an auxiliary circuit breaker panel MOD kit and M XMSN PRESS SWITCH circuit breaker MOD kit based on helicopter S/N.

The FAA also reviewed RFM Supplement No. 45, Revision No. 2, Sikorsky Model S-92A, Part 1, dated April 27, 2017 (S-92A RFMS 45, Part 1, Revision 2). This service information specifies operating limitations, preflight checks, normal and emergency procedures, and malfunction information for helicopters with Avionics Management System version 7.1 or 8.0 with the MGB OIL OUT warning activated, pump failure indicating system, MGB auto bypass, and M XMSN PRESS SWITCH circuit breaker installed.

This service information is reasonably available because the interested parties have access to it through their normal course of business or by the means identified in the ADDRESSES section.

### **Other Related Service Information**

The FAA reviewed Sikorsky S-92 Helicopter Alert Service Bulletin 92-63-037, Revision A, dated March 1, 2018. This service information contains planning information pertaining to the auxiliary circuit breaker panel and M XMSN PRESS SWITCH circuit breaker MOD kits, accomplishing SSI 92-121, and inserting S-92A RFMS 45, Part 1, Revision 2 into the helicopter cockpit.

### **FAA's Determination**

The FAA is proposing this AD after evaluating all the relevant information and determining that the unsafe condition described previously is likely to exist or develop in other products of the same type design.

### **Proposed AD Requirements**

This proposed AD would require, within 400 hours time-in-service:

- For helicopters S/N 920006 through 920296 inclusive, installing an auxiliary circuit breaker panel and M XMSN PRESS SWITCH circuit breaker by installing MOD Kit Clips and Brackets part number (P/N) 92070-20115-015, MOD Kit Left Hand (LH) Cockpit Auxiliary Power Unit P/N 92070-55096-012, MOD Kit LH Cabin Auxiliary Power Unit P/N 92070-55096-013, MOD Kit LH Top Deck FLD P/N 92070-55096-016, MOD Kit MGB XMSN P/N 92070-55096-017, MOD Kit Auxiliary Circuit Break Panel P/N 92070-55075-011, and MOD Kit Auxiliary Cabin Panel Faceplate P/N 92070-55075-012.

- For helicopters S/N 920297 through 920304 inclusive and S/N 920311 through 920314 inclusive, modifying the auxiliary circuit breaker panel and transmission harness and installing MOD Kit Auxiliary Cabin Panel Faceplate P/N 92070-55075-012.
- Inserting a copy of S-92A RFMS 45, Part 1, Revision 2 into the RFM for your helicopter.

### **Costs of Compliance**

The FAA estimates that this proposed AD affects 36 helicopters of U.S. registry. The FAA estimate the following costs to comply with this proposed AD. Labor costs are estimated at \$85 per work-hour.

Modifying helicopters S/N 920006 through 920296 inclusive would take about 48 work-hours and parts would cost about \$1,618 for an estimated cost of \$5,698 per helicopter and \$182,336 for the U.S. fleet size of 32 helicopters.

Modifying helicopters S/N 920297 through 920304 inclusive and S/N 920311 through 920314 inclusive would take about 2 work-hours and parts would cost about \$65 for an estimated cost of \$235 per helicopter and \$940 for the U.S. fleet size of 4 helicopters.

Revising the RFM would take about 0.5 work-hour for an estimated cost of \$43 per helicopter and \$1,548 for the U.S. fleet.

### **Authority for this Rulemaking**

Title 49 of the United States Code specifies the FAA's authority to issue rules on aviation safety. Subtitle I, section 106, describes the authority of the FAA Administrator. Subtitle VII: Aviation Programs, describes in more detail the scope of the Agency's authority.

The FAA is issuing this rulemaking under the authority described in Subtitle VII, Part A, Subpart III, Section 44701: General requirements. Under that section, Congress charges the FAA with promoting safe flight of civil aircraft in air commerce by prescribing regulations for practices, methods, and procedures the Administrator finds necessary for safety in air commerce. This regulation is within the scope of that authority because it addresses an unsafe condition that is likely to exist or develop on products identified in this rulemaking action.

### **Regulatory Findings**

The FAA determined that this proposed AD would not have federalism implications under Executive Order 13132. This proposed AD would not have a substantial direct effect on the States, on the relationship between the national government and the States, or on the distribution of power and responsibilities among the various levels of government.

For the reasons discussed above, I certify this proposed regulation:

1. Is not a “significant regulatory action” under Executive Order 12866,
2. Will not affect intrastate aviation in Alaska, and
3. Will not have a significant economic impact, positive or negative, on a substantial number of small entities under the criteria of the Regulatory Flexibility Act.

The FAA prepared an economic evaluation of the estimated costs to comply with this proposed AD and placed it in the AD docket.

### **List of Subjects in 14 CFR Part 39**

Air transportation, Aircraft, Aviation safety, Incorporation by reference, Safety.

## **The Proposed Amendment**

Accordingly, under the authority delegated to me by the Administrator, the FAA proposes to amend 14 CFR part 39 as follows:

### **PART 39 - AIRWORTHINESS DIRECTIVES**

1. The authority citation for part 39 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 49 U.S.C. 106(g), 40113, 44701.

#### **§ 39.13 [Amended]**

2. The FAA amends § 39.13 by adding the following new airworthiness directive (AD):

**Sikorsky Aircraft Corporation:** Docket No. FAA-2019-1115; Product Identifier 2018-SW-065-AD.

#### **(a) Comments Due Date**

The FAA must receive comments by [INSERT DATE 45 DAYS AFTER DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE Federal Register].

#### **(b) Affected ADs**

None.

#### **(c) Applicability**

This AD applies to Sikorsky Aircraft Corporation Model S-92A helicopters, serial number (S/N) 920006 through 920304 inclusive and S/N 920311 through 920314 inclusive, certificated in any category.

#### **(d) Subject**

Joint Aircraft System Component (JASC) Code: 6340, Rotor Drive Indicating System.



**(e) Unsafe Condition**

This AD was prompted by two incidents of erroneous low oil pressure caution cockpit indications and unintended actuation of the main gearbox (MGB) auto bypass valve. The FAA is issuing this AD to prevent the M XMSM OIL WARN circuit breaker from presenting erroneous cautions when tripped. The unsafe condition, if not addressed, could result in erroneous low oil pressure caution cockpit indication, unintended actuation of the MGB auto bypass valve, increased oil temperature, conflicting indications, and forced landing of the helicopter.

**(f) Compliance**

Comply with this AD within the compliance times specified, unless already done.

**(g) Required Actions**

Within 400 hours time-in-service:

(1) For helicopters S/N 920006 through 920296 inclusive:

(i) Install Modification (MOD) Kit Clips and Brackets part number (P/N) 92070-20115-015 by following the Instructions, paragraph B. of Sikorsky Special Service Instructions No. 92-121, dated October 26, 2017 (SSI 92-121).

(ii) Install the first portion of MOD Kit Auxiliary Circuit Breaker Panel P/N 92070-55075-011 by following the Instructions, paragraph C. of Sikorsky SSI 92-121.

(iii) Install MOD Kit Left Hand (LH) Cockpit Auxiliary Power Unit P/N 92070-55096-012 by following the Instructions, paragraph D. of Sikorsky SSI 92-121.

(iv) Install MOD Kit LH Cabin Auxiliary Power Unit P/N 92070-55096-013 by following the Instructions, paragraph E. of Sikorsky SSI 92-121.

(v) Install MOD Kit LH Top Deck FLD P/N 92070-55096-016 by following the Instructions, paragraph F. of Sikorsky SSI 92-121.

(vi) Install MOD Kit MGB XMSN P/N 92070-55096-017 by following the Instructions, paragraph G. of Sikorsky SSI 92-121.

(vii) Install the completion portion of MOD Kit Auxiliary Circuit Break Panel P/N 92070-55075-011 by following the Instructions, paragraph H. of Sikorsky SSI 92-121.

(viii) Install MOD Kit Auxiliary Cabin Panel Faceplate P/N 92070-55075-012 by following the Instructions, paragraph J. of Sikorsky SSI 92-121.

(2) For helicopters S/N 920297 through 920304 inclusive and S/N 920311 through 920314 inclusive:

(i) Modify the auxiliary circuit breaker panel and transmission harness by following the Instructions, paragraph I. of Sikorsky SSI 92-121.

(ii) Install MOD Kit Auxiliary Cabin Panel Faceplate P/N 92070-55075-012 by following the Instructions, paragraph J. of Sikorsky SSI 92-121.

(3) Insert a copy of the Rotorcraft Flight Manual (RFM) Supplement No. 45, Revision No. 2, Sikorsky Model S-92A, Part 1, dated April 27, 2017, into the RFM for your helicopter.

**(h) Credit for Previous Actions**

Completion of the Accomplishment Instructions of Sikorsky S-92 Helicopter Alert Service Bulletin 92-63-037, Revision A, dated March 1, 2018, before the effective date of this AD is considered acceptable for compliance with the actions required by paragraph (g) of this AD.

**(i) Alternative Methods of Compliance (AMOCs)**

(1) The Manager, Boston ACO Branch, FAA, has the authority to approve AMOCs for this AD, if requested using the procedures found in 14 CFR 39.19. In accordance with 14 CFR 39.19, send your request to your principal inspector or local Flight Standards District Office, as appropriate. If sending information directly to the manager of the certification office, send it to the attention of the person identified in paragraph (j)(1) of this AD.

(2) Before using any approved AMOC, notify your appropriate principal inspector, or lacking a principal inspector, the manager of the local flight standards district office/certificate holding district office.

**(j) Related Information**

(1) For more information about this AD, contact Michael Schwetz, Aviation Safety Engineer, Boston ACO Branch, Compliance & Airworthiness Division, FAA, 1200 District Avenue, Burlington, MA 01803; telephone 781-238-7761; email michael.schwetz@faa.gov.

(2) For service information identified in this AD, contact your local Sikorsky Field Representative or Sikorsky's Service Engineering Group at Sikorsky Aircraft Corporation, 124 Quarry Road, Trumbull, CT 06611; telephone 1-800-Winged-S; email wcs\_cust\_service\_eng.gr-sik@lmco.com. Operators may also log on to the Sikorsky 360 website at <https://www.sikorsky360.com>. You may view this referenced service information at the FAA, Office of the Regional Counsel, Southwest Region, 10101

Hillwood Pkwy, Room 6N-321, Fort Worth, TX 76177. For information on the availability of this material at the FAA, call 817-222-5110.

Issued in Fort Worth, Texas, on February 4, 2020.

Lance T. Gant,

Director, Compliance & Airworthiness Division,  
Aircraft Certification Service.

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